

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9-11 and 15 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the canceled subject matter.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance by canceling all rejected claims. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 9-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Schroeter et al. (JP-A-10-104103) (Schroeter). Claims 9-11 and 15 are canceled; thus, the rejection is moot.

Applicants thank Examiner for indicating that claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 13 are allowable. Rejected claims 9-11 and 15 are cancelled. Thus, the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

JAO:MAC/mem

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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